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Total Number of Pages in This Submission

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Filing Date	08/04/2003
First Named Inventor	Eung-Sun KIM
Art Unit	2621
Examiner Name	D. Tekle
Attorney Docket Number	45453

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P. (Customer No. 001609)		
Signature			
Printed name	Garrett V. Davis		
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45453

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	
	:	Art Unit: 2621
Eung-Sun KIM	:	
	:	Examiner: D. Tekle
Serial No.: 10/632,865	:	
	:	
Filed: August 4, 2003	:	
	:	
For: VIDEO RECORDING/REPRODUCING	:	
APPARATUS AND A STORAGE DEVICE:	:	
CONTROL METHOD THEREOF	:	

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the November 17, 2008 Office Action. In view of the following comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

The Rejections

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0118321 to Sparrell et al. The Action indicates that Sparrell et al. discloses each of the claim limitations.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection and submit that Sparrell et al. does not disclose each of the claimed features either expressly or inherently. Sparrell et al. does not disclose or suggest a video recording/reproducing apparatus having an input unit operated by a user for selecting a predetermined buffer time among a plurality of allocated buffer times and

outputting a command corresponding to the buffer time selected by the user. Accordingly, the claims are not anticipated by Sparrell et al.

The Action refers to paragraph 0027 of Sparrell et al. for disclosing an input unit operated by a user for recording a program. The passage referred to in the Action does not refer to a buffer time selected by the user where the buffer time is selected from an allocated predetermined number of buffer times as in the claimed invention. Paragraph 0027 refers to the record/playback service 106 for automatically establishing buffer times of appropriate size according to the remaining time of the program to be recorded. This does not correspond to predetermined buffer times in a video recording/reproducing apparatus of the present invention that are selected by the user.

Sparrell et al. discloses that the record/playback service 106 determines the amount of buffer time needed for the program or the portion of the program remaining after the recording command is made by the user. As disclosed in paragraph 0027, the record/playback service determines the buffer time needed to record the remaining portion of the program. There is no suggestion of the user selecting a buffer time. Moreover, there is clearly no suggestion in Sparrell et al. of the user selecting a buffer time from allocated buffer times.

The user in the apparatus of the present invention selects a predetermined buffer time among a plurality of allocated buffer times. As disclosed in paragraph 0053 of the present specification, the user by using the remote control selects the desired buffer time from the menu. Thus, the user in the example given can select a one hour buffer time or a two hour buffer time. The input unit of Sparrell et al. does not select a predetermined buffer time from allocated buffer times, but instead establishes buffers of the appropriate size for recording the programs. The record/playback service of Sparrell et al. determines the amount of buffer needed to record the program or remaining portion of the program when the recording command is selected after the program has started. The buffer time of Sparrell et al. is not selected by the user.

Sparrell et al. also does not disclose the combination of an input unit operated by the user for selecting a buffer time and a main control unit for temporarily storing the received video signal in an allocated temporary buffer area corresponding to the selected buffer time that was selected by the user in the storage device. As noted in the Action, Sparrell et al. discloses storing the program in a buffer area and releases the stored program for long term memory. The system of Sparrell et al. does not have a main control unit for temporarily storing a received video signal in a buffer area of a storage device for a predetermined buffer time selected by the user. The apparatus and method of the claimed invention enables the user to select the buffer time of a predetermined length from a plurality of allocated buffer times. Thus, in the present invention, the user selects the buffer time, and thus, the length of time of the program to be recorded. Sparrell et al. does not suggest a buffer time selected by the user. In the claimed invention, the user selects the allocated buffer time for the temporary storage. The image signals are then stored in the buffer area of the storage device based on the selected buffer time.

The image signals of Sparrell et al. are stored in a buffer area for the duration of time determined by the record/playback service. The record/playback service of Sparrell et al. determines the buffers of an appropriate size according to the program by the record/playback service. The record/playback service determines the capacity of the buffer needed to record the remaining portion of a program and does not select a buffer time based on a selection made by the user. The storage times in the buffer of Sparrell et al. are based on the information provided by the program.

The buffer memory time calculated by Sparrell et al. is based on a program guide source providing program length information. The record/playback service then calculates the needed buffer time to match the program length calculated by a converter. The buffer memory size is then matched to record the program based on the program guide source. The program guide source selected by Sparrell et al. provides the program length information. The system then

converts the program length information into a corresponding buffer memory size and the video program determines the buffer size according to the information provided to the system.

Sparrell et al. also does not disclose a main control unit for temporarily storing a video signal in a selected allocated buffer time corresponding to the buffer time selected by the user when a command for temporary storage is received from the input unit and for recording the video signal of the selected buffer time for long term storage in the storage device. Thus, independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Sparrell et al.

The dependent claims are also allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and for reciting additional features of the invention that are not disclosed or suggested in Sparrell et al. Sparrell et al. does not disclose the apparatus for setting a new buffer area in a non-recording area of the storage device upon receiving a signal for long term recording and recording attribute information in the long term recorded video signal in an attribute information recording area as in claim 2, or incorporating the remaining storage spaced from the selected buffer time selected by the user into a non-recording area of the main control unit as in claim 3, in combination with the features of claim 1. Sparrell et al. also does not disclose a main control unit, copying and recording the temporary storage video signal in a non-recording area of the storage device, and deleting the video signal temporarily stored in the buffer area as in claim 4. Sparrell et al. only discloses the buffer memory being used to initially store the program and then using the memory for long term memory storage. Sparrell et al. does not disclose copying the temporary video signal in the buffer and storing or recording the signal in a non-recording area as in claim 4.

Sparrell et al. also does not disclose the attribute information of claim 5, receiving a command signal for deleting video temporarily stored in the buffer area having the selected predetermined buffer time as in claim 6, the interface unit mounted in a main body to receive the command transmitted from the input unit by the user as in claim 7, the input unit including an external input as in claim 8, the external unit being a remote controller as in claim 9, the

apparatus having an interface unit mounted in the main body and having a light receiving part for receiving infrared signals as in claim 10, the specified video signal source of claim 11, the storage device having a hard disk drive as in claim 12, in combination with the features of claim 1.

Independent claim 13 is directed to a method for a video recording/reproducing apparatus for storing a video signal in a storage device and reproducing and outputting the stored video signal to a display device comprising the steps of storing a received video signal in a buffer area in the storage device having a predetermined buffer time selected by the user. Claim 13 further recites the buffer time selected by the user being selected from a plurality of predetermined buffer times if a request signal is received from an input unit so that a certain amount of the received video signal is temporarily stored in the temporary allocated buffer area corresponding to the selected buffer time, and thereafter storing the temporarily stored video signal in the buffer area or in a non-recording area of the storage device in a long term basis. The Action does not identify where each of the claimed method steps are disclosed in Sparrell et al. Accordingly, the Action has not established anticipation of the method of claim 13.

As recited in claim 13, the video signal is stored based on a buffer time selected by the user such that a certain amount of the video signal is temporarily stored corresponding to the predetermined buffer time. Sparrell et al. clearly does not disclose storing a certain amount of the video signal corresponding to the selected buffer time selected by the user. As discussed above, Sparrell et al. discloses the system which automatically determines the necessary buffer time to record the program based on program information supplied by the system. The amount of the video signal recorded is not determined by the allocated buffer time. Instead, the buffer space of Sparrell et al. is determined by the program and the length of time remaining in the program to be recorded. Thus, independent claim 13 is not anticipated by Sparrell et al.